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SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I think the record probably will reflect also at this point that Senator Withem has signed on. This was, again, another one of the bills from the recommendations from the Constitut onal Revision Commission. This one has some practical application that happened to us last year and goes like this. passed, whoever the presiding officer about ... recites the constitutional phrase that all provisions of law having been complied with, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, that once the bill has been adopted and approved, then while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business. the constitution says that the Lieutenant Governor or the Speaker, acting as the presiding officer, shall sign the It is a ministerial duty to send the bill over to legislation. the Governor's Office. You need some mechanism so there is an There is accountability that the bill is official transfer. signed, then mechanically taken to the Governor's Office. occurs that if the Lieutenant Governor is gone, unavailable, and the Speaker happens to be gone and unavailable, those bills can't be signed, that mechanically, constitutionally just can't be done. We had a bill last year, of course, that that occurred with, and not that our Speaker and Lieutenant Governor are gone, but occasionally it does happen, and particularly if you've got a bill that has the emergency clause, you have got people ready to carry out a bill, it doesn't occur. The problem could also occur if, at the end of the session, you have a Lieutenant Governor or Speaker who may be ill, the other one unavailable, and session ends, that bill could never It's not like the Lieutenant mechanically get taken over. Governor or the Speaker have the veto power; in other words, they can't refuse to sign a bill and say I don't like it, I am not going to take it over. It is a ministerial duty. It's a duty that is an accountability practice, but whoever the presiding officer is in the Chair should be able, if they are able to make the pronouncement that all provisions of law have been complied with, they certainly ought to be able to carry out, sign the document, said the bill has been passed. What you want to maintain in the constitution that it's done in the presence of the Legislature while we are in session so you don't have somebody in an office somewhere on an off day or when we are not in session signing bills and taking them over to the